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1. EUROPEANS CRITICAL OF BRITISH TROOP CUT PLANS

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Officials of several West European countries have sharply criticized Britain's tentative plans for severe cuts in its military forces in Germany. At a 6 February meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC), Belgian, Netherlands, Norwegian, and German representatives were disturbed over Britain's intention to switch discussion of what was essentially a NATO military problem into the seven-nation Western European Union (WEU). In Bonn, a Foreign Ministry official has predicted the WEU members will resist substantial reductions.

The British representative deferred any commitment as to when a firm statement of plans might be offered in the NAC on the ground that the new Macmillan government required time to make up its mind. He stressed that reductions were a matter of parallel NATO and WEU interest, and strongly intimated that the first full revelation would be made at the WEU foreign ministers' meeting Britain has called for 26 February.

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ANNEX

Watch Report 340, 7 February
of the
Intelligence Advisory Committee

Conclusions on Indications of Hostilities

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee the
Intelligence Advisory Committee concludes that:

- A. No Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against the continental US or its possessions in the immediate future.
- B. No Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against US forces abroad, US allies or areas peripheral to the Orbit in the immediate future.
- C. A deliberate initiation of hostilities in the Middle East is improbable in the immediate future.

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